

**11<sup>th</sup> MEETING OF THE IHO INTER-REGIONAL COORDINATION COMMITTEE  
IHO IRCC11 Genoa, Italy, 3-5 June 2019**

**NORTH INDIAN OCEAN HYDROGRAPHIC COMMISSION**

**NIOHC report to IRCC11**

**1. Chair**

**Chair:** Rear Admiral Tim Lowe CBE (UK)

**Vice Chair:** Rear Admiral Sisira JAYAKODY (Sri Lanka)

**2. Membership**

**Members:** Bangladesh, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, United Kingdom.

**Associate**

**Members:** Australia, France, Oman, Mauritius, Seychelles, USA.

**Observers:** Malaysia, Russian Federation, Sudan.

**3. Previous meeting:**

19<sup>th</sup> NIOHC Conference, Muscat, Oman: 25 - 28 March 2019

**Next meeting:** 20<sup>th</sup> NIOHC Conference will take place in 2020 (exact date tbc) in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**4. Current NIOHC Working Group:**

NIOHC ICCWG

Statutes Working Group (established during 19<sup>th</sup> NIOHC)

**5. Status of IRCC actions (relevant for the NIOHC):**

No	ACTION (AGENDA ITEM)	RESP.	DEADLINE	NIOHC Action
IRCC10/3	to submit draft IHO Resolution 2/1997 as amended (Annex C) to the RHC Members for comments and report back to IRCC (6.2)	RHC Chairs	October 2018	Action completed (see comments below)

The NIOHC Chair sent out the following NIOHC Letters:

- No 5/2018 - IRCC-10 Action 2 - RHC Chairs to submit draft IHO Resolution 2/1997 to RHC Members for comments
- No 8/2018 - NIOHC Response to IRCC regarding IHO Resolution 2/1997
- No 2/2019 - NIOHC input to IHO Meetings

**Action C2/20:** Noting the work still in progress for more substantive changes, IRCC to submit the consolidated amendments to the IHO Resolution 2/1997 at C-3 for subsequent approval at A-2.

IRCC10 Report - Annex D, List of Actions (Updated as of 23 November 2018) shows this action as ongoing.

IRCC10 Recommendations to RHCs were interwoven into the agenda and discussed under the relevant agenda items. This included the IRCC10 recommendation on the “one-year clock” for resolving overlapping ENC’s within the WENDWG Report and assigning an MSDI ambassador and taking forward MSDI under the MSDI agenda item. The Chair suggested a need to focus on regional MSDI. A NIOHC MSDI champion was assigned (UK).

## 6. Agenda Items:

The NIOHC Conferences operate a standing agenda with modifications for new issues of regional importance as they arise. The principal agenda items are:

- Feedback from other IHO Bodies affecting NIOHC
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting of the IHO Council
  - IRCC - actions and guidance to RHCs
  - CBSC
  - IHO Secretariat Report
- NIOHC Activities in the light of IHO Work programme:
  - NICCWG - INT chart scheme for Region J.
  - MSI - NAVAREA VII Self-Assessment.
  - Capacity Building
  - Bilateral and Regional Cooperation Agreements, Projects and Regional Capacity Building Management Plan. CBSC Technical Visits and Regional Projects.
  - Presentation of National Reports: Hydrographic surveying, nautical charting, nautical publications and information status.
  - Status of Hydrographic Surveying and Nautical Charting (C-55)
  - Procedures in response to Marine Disasters
  - Blue Economy - presented by Seychelles
- Marine / Hydrographic Spatial Data Infrastructure
- Feedback on Regional Projects
- Revision of NIOHC Statutes
- NIOHC input into IHO meetings

## 7. NIOHC cooperation with stakeholders (organizations, industry, etc.):

The commission meeting was enriched by the attendance and participation of seven industry and four from other organisations. This encouraged healthy debate and developed collaborative opportunities.

## 8. Conclusions:

This was an extremely well-attended commission meeting, addressing a range of IHO/Hydrographic matters. Each of the participating Member and Associate Member States represented at the Conference provided a briefing on the status of hydrography, charting priorities, and activities in their areas of responsibility.

The significant highlights were:

- High-level of attendance and active participation.
- IALA, IHO, and IMO - “Delivering as one” achieved at the Hydrographic Awareness Seminar.
- MSDI initiative - an MSDI champion was assigned to NIOHC (UK).
- Technical and High Level Visits

A key challenge is the provision of survey data and reports of changes that may affect safety of navigation in national waters by coastal states to INT Chart producer nations and these requirements are constantly communicated.

Capacity Building requirements vary considerably across all coastal states. Therefore, producing a capacity building plan that achieves prioritisation is a challenge. The NIOHC have formed a CB Working Group, coordinated by the CB Coordinator to progress CB initiatives in the region. The intention is to raise at CBSC17.

The need to investigate the length of tenure of Chairmanship was recognised by the NIOHC group. Consequently, a working group to review the statutes including length of tenure was established.

Member States duly reviewed the revised IHO Resolution 1/2005 - IHO Response to Disasters, and the NIOHC region supports the recommended changes.

During Any Other Business, India raised that they are printing emergency contact details on their charts, UK highlighted this is also added on adoptions of the Indian charts. This led to a discussion and action to produce an emergency contact numbers list for the NIOHC region.

## **9. Achievements and lessons learned:**

### **Achievements**

Following a presentation delivered by UK on Marine Spatial Data Infrastructure, the UK was voted as the MSDI champion for the NIOHC region.

NIOHC19 received its best ever attendance consisting of 70 delegates from 19 countries. This included representation from Somalia and Yemen, enabling a greater awareness of hydrographic activity across the NIOHC community.

NIOHC19 enjoyed attendance from seven industry representatives, each delivering unique insight into new maritime technologies. Furthermore, PERSGA provided a comprehensive breakdown of their activities in the region.

NICCWG achievements include significant reduction in ENC overlaps and the approval of 9 INT charts from Bangladesh.

Significant activity during this reporting period to advance hydrography, nautical cartography and capability within the NIOHC region was reported through the National Report updates. Areas of activity include improved hydrographic equipment capability, data collection, product generation, capacity building and future concepts.

Phase-1 Skill course under the IHO Capacity Building plan was conducted at National Institute of Hydrography, Goa from 28 January to 1 February 2019.

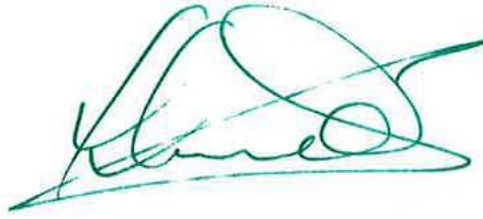
### **Lessons learned**

The value of Hydrographic Awareness Seminars cannot be underestimated, especially when prospective IHO members are in attendance. In the NIOHC region, this has improved attendance and dialogue with countries such as Yemen and Somalia.

## **10. Actions required of IRCC:**

The IRCC is invited to:

- a. note the report.
- b. consider updating the RHC report to IRCC template, to include "IRCC recommendations to RHCs".
- c. recommend establishment of emergency contact numbers list to be discussed at IRCC11, and included in IHO Resolution 1/2005.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tim Lowe', with a large, stylized flourish above the name.

Rear Admiral Tim Lowe CBE  
Chairman North Indian Ocean Hydrographic Commission (NIOHC)